MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 7, 1938.

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1938, was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Saturday, May 7, 1938. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Savage,
Mr. Borie,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Manship,
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held March 24, 1938, were approved.

2. NEW PIANO FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: Mr. Manship reported that he and Mr. Savage had inspected the models for the new piano and that they have approved the work in its present state of progress. He said: "We discussed three or four alternate treatments of the support of the top of the piano. We preferred the grill to the stick." Mr. Clarke asked about the piano legs and Mr. Manship replied: "I was critical of the massiveness of the eagles in the first model and then I realized that Stewart knows his birds as well as any one. I went around to see him at the studio and he is doing the very thing I thought of--reducing the scale by treating his details more subtly." Mr. Lamb asked Mr. Manship if he thought the bulk of the legs excessive and Mr. Manship replied that Mr. Stewart has simplified an angle in the wing and has given particular attention to the pointed feathers on the neck and legs; that is what he felt was necessary for the thickness had suggested a stone treatment rather than wood. Mr. Manship thought it would work out all right.

The Chairman asked that both Mr. Manship and Mr. Savage keep in touch with the work.

3. HEARST COLLECTION: Mr. Clarke read a letter, as follows, which he had received from Mr. Manship and Mr. Savage concerning the Hearst collection:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

We have spent some time with Mr. Parish-Watson, and are able to report to you on the Hearst collection only in the most summary manner.

This great collection--containing many thousands of items--is not easily visible, and is, to a great extent, stored away in warehouses. While part of it is in New York, there are a great number of pieces in California and elsewhere.

The art objects range from tapestries to furniture, pictures and sculpture to stained glass, Mayan and Central American art to Greek vases and Renaissance armor. Besides, there is a great collection of Americana in the form of literary documents.

There are three hundred and fifty tapestries, including sixty Gothic ones, which seem to be of supreme importance, and, undoubtedly, there are pieces which would add lustre to any great collection.

The collection of over one hundred suits of armor, we understand, is of great importance and one of the finest privately owned.

We understand that, among the paintings, there are about thirty of outstanding quality, and six or eight notable sculptural works.

Mr. Hearst has gathered together sixty panelled rooms, of which we understand about twenty-five are of special importance. In the field of Greek vases, his collection has the reputation of being especially rich, as is also the case with examples of Mayan and other American Indian cultural objects.

We believe that, by all means, every effort should be made to secure outstanding examples of this great private collection for the National Galleries.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Paul Manship,
Eugene F. Savage.

In discussing this matter both Mr. Savage and Mr. Manship referred to their talk with Mr. Parish-Watson concerning the collection. Mr. Borie

said that since there are several thousand articles in the collection and before the Government considers the acquisition of any part of it, it should be gone over with a fine tooth comb. Mr. Manship stated that if the collection were given to the Government, the Government should have the right to dispose of such pieces as it wishes. The Commission decided to transmit the report by Mr. Manship and Mr. Savage as the official report of the Commission on the subject to Congressman Alfred D. Phillips. (Exhibit A)

4. COLUMBIAN FOUNTAIN: Under date of April 15, 1938, the following letter was received from Hon. A. J. Sabath, House of Representatives:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I have introduced House Joint Resolution 626 providing for the erection of "The Columbian Fountain" upon an appropriate site now owned by the United States in the District of Columbia.

Enclosed you will please find a copy of the resolution with photographs of various views of the fountain. Under the provisions of the resolution the location of the fountain and the plan for the development of the site shall be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for advisory assistance and the construction of the fountain shall be under the direction of the director of Public Buildings and Public Parks.

The models of the Columbian Fountain were recently located in Paris in the studio of the late Frederick MacMonnies. His widow, Mrs. Alice MacMonnies informs me that they are in good condition and the models may be prefectly executed in marble.

Tentative plans are for the formation of an association which will raise funds by popular subscription and Mrs. MacMonnies will turn the models over to the association upon completion of its organization. As the erection of the fountain will be without cost to the Government, I sincerely trust that I may have the cooperation of the Commission in the furtherance of the passage of the resolution and should the Library Committee call upon you that you will recommend its enactment.

It is acknowledged by all that this fountain is truly the most beautiful and wonderful in all the world, typifying America's progress in industry, science and fine arts and it is but fitting that its subject being national in character that it should be located in Washington.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) A. J. Sabath.

Mr. Clarke said that on receipt of the letter he took the matter up with Mr. Lamb, Mr. Manship and Mr. Shepley and that Mr. Manship had drafted the following reply:

May 3rd, 1938.

My dear Mr. Sabath:

> The Commission of Fine Arts is sympathetic to all proposals the objects of which are the beautification of our National Capital. The worthy motives expressed in the Joint Resolution 626 are appreciated, but, in its critical advisory capacity, the Commission is called upon to point out various reasons for which the admirable sentiments voiced in the project to perpetuate the Columbian Fountain in the City of Washington could not be fulfilled, and would not, in the best judgment of the Commission, be advisable.
>
> Frederick MacMonnies was one of the outstanding sculptors of his generation, and the Columbian Fountain designed by him received wide popular acclaim. The fountain was eminently appropriate in its form and spirit to the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, but to attempt to reproduce it in permanent form would be impracticable and inadvisable.
>
> It was in harmony with the spirit of, and dependent upon, a setting which has been lost, except in memory. The Commission does not believe that, were the sculptor living, he would desire to see it reproduced exactly as it was in the Exposition of 1893, and none but himself could do justice to the execution in permanent materials of such an important work, nor make the inevitable alterations appropriate to a new environment. Lacking the master hand of the creator of the Columbian Fountain, and bearing in mind the other circumstances, the Commission of Fine Arts considers unwise any attempt to reconstruct this fountain.

Photographs of the fountain were inspected. Mr. Borie said he saw the fountain when he visited the Chicago World's Fair, where it was an object of great interest. He felt that it would be a difficult thing to reproduce now and called attention to the oars which certainly could not be made of stone. He felt the work would have to be done in bronze. At the World's Fair it was done in staff and looked like staff.

During the conference with Congressman Keller, Chairman of the House Committee on the Library, the Commission discussed the matter with him.

Mr. Clarke read the draft of the proposed report to be sent to Mr. Sabath. Mr. Keller commented that he would regret a positive disapproval of the project. He said: "I was just a boy in 1893 when I was there and I was much impressed by the fountain. The remembrance of it has been with me all these years. I would like to see the Chicago people permitted to give something to Washington."

Difficulties to be encountered were then explained to Mr. Keller and also the question of location was discussed. Mr. Keller suggested that the Chicago people be allowed to raise funds for the fountain and that if the fountain is constructed it be placed on the water front near the War College in South Washington. The report was thereupon amended by adding the following paragraph:

> However, returning to the proposition of our opening paragraph, I wish to add that the Commission would be happy to consider a work embodying the spirit which was expressed in the Columbian Fountain, done by a sculptor of our times and in a spirit sympathetic to the environment of Washington.

A copy of this report sent to Congressman Sabath was sent to Representative Keller. (Exhibit B and B-1)

5. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: Representative Keller conferred with the Commission on the subject of completion of the Navy and Marine Memorial by providing a base for it. Begni del Piatta, the sculptor, and Harvey Wiley Corbett, the architect, were present during the discussion. Mr. Keller said that H. J. Res. 403 introduced by Representative Jenks of New Hampshire contemplates an appropriation of $189,634 to provide for a granite pedestal as originally planned and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. Keller wanted to know whether the Commission of Fine Arts would object to this being done. Mr. Clarke said: "The plans for the granite pedestal were approved

years ago but the present members of the Commission are always inclined to support the action of former members. A year or so ago the National Capital Park and Planning Commission called attention to the unfinished condition of the Memorial and suggested that the base be completed by omitting the steps and providing an earth fill and planting. Since the memorial presents an unsightly condition along the Mt. Vernon Highway on Columbia Island, the Commission of Fine Arts agreed to this suggestion. Now if Congress should make an appropriation available for a granite pedestal the Commission would be willing to cooperate with the sculptor and architect in carrying out the original design or a modified design that will come within an appropriation made available by Congress."

Mr. Keller replied that the Committee on the Library has felt disposed to allow $150,000; also he said that Mr. Corbett's design for the wave-like pedestal had been published all over the country and on this basis a great many subscriptions were received; hence he would like to see it carried out.

Mr. Clarke said the Commission of Fine Arts is not interested in the financial end of the project and if Congress provides the necessary funds the Commission will cooperate with the sculptor and architect in completing the memorial.

6. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL: The Commission discussed the Thomas Jefferson Memorial project. The publicity recently given to the fact that the Commission of Fine Arts had not approved the design which is being recommended by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission was regarded a good step and the action of the Chairman in this matter was commended.

Congressman Keller discussed the memorial project with the Commission and called attention to the bill he has introduced, H. R. 10217, which contem-

plates a program of competition. The Commission expressed interest in the bill. It was stated that there are undoubtedly many artists who would like to submit designs but it should be understood that a competitor would be one of such standing that he can carry out his design. Mr. Keller said he expects that his Committee will report the bill in a few days.

7. NEW BRIDGE AND TUNNEL, SOUTH WASHINGTON: Col. P. M. Anderson, a local architect-engineer, asked for the privilege of presenting his plans for a new bridge and tunnel to take the place of the existing highway and railroad bridges in south Washington.

The Commission inspected the plans and had an interesting conference with Col. Anderson concerning the plans. Col. Anderson called attention to Bill H. R. 10347 introduced by Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia, which proposes an authorization of $25,000 to study the project. He said the existing traffic conditions at 14th Street are most unsatisfactory for it is virtually a bottle neck. Furthermore, the railroad and highway bridges are old and unsightly. He said he had been working on t is scheme for a number of years. He wished to bring it to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts since the Thomas Jefferson Memorial has been considered for the area south of the Washington Monument. He felt there is no adequate space for a memorial as has been proposed in this area until a plan such as he has proposed, that is, to remove the railroad embankment, etc., has been adopted. The scheme does not affect the Tidal Basin nor does it involve destroying any trees. The area would be raised approximately 8 feet. There would be a vehicular tunnel for trucks and a double track in the tunnel for trains. The tunnel would serve as a support for a bridge, having six lanes and a bascule span. On the Virginia side of the bridge proper connection would be made with the Mt. Vernon

Highway. Much of the bridge construction would be completed when the tunnel is built. Col. Anderson was asked for an estimate of cost of the project and he said it would cost $18,000,000.

Mr. Borie said he had talked with officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company some years ago about such a project as this and they said they would agree to it if some one would provide the funds. They admitted that the railroad bridge is an old structure that will have to be renewed in the not too distant future.

It was admitted that both the railroad and highway bridges are eyesores and that they had served their period of usefulness. Col. Anderson suggested that if this scheme is adopted he would recommend that the slum area on the Virginia side of the river be cleared and developed into a large airport. It will be the most convenient location of any airport in a large city.

Mr. Clarke expressed the appreciation of the Commission of Fine Arts to Col. Anderson for the opportunity to talk to him about this project and stated his plan would receive further and more detailed consideration by the Commission whenever Congress enacts appropriate legislation.

8. COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, MEMORIAL: The Director of the National Park Service submitted the following memorandum concerning the Columbus Memorial marker:

Memorandum for the Fine Arts Commission:

> On March 24, the Fine Arts Commission approved a plan for an historical marker to be installed at Columbus, Georgia; the monument in question to be in the form of a granite shaft with appropriate inscriptions carved on four sides of the monument.
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> Specifications were prepared and the project advertised for bid. Some fifteen sets of plans were distributed to dealers in the immediate vicinity of Columbus, Georgia. No bids were received and as a result the National Park Service wrote to each

THE · COMMISSION · OF · FINE · ARTS

·ESTABLISHED · BY · CONGRESS · MAY · 17. 1910·

GILMORE D. CLARKE, Chairman
CHARLES MOORE — HENRY R. SHEPLEY
EUGENE F. SAVAGE — WILLIAM F. LAMB
CHARLES L. BORIE, Jr. — PAUL MANSHIP

H. P. CAEMMERER, Secretary

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON

of the persons to whom plans and specifications had been sent with the request that the contractors make some statement as to why the bids were not submitted. A series of some ten letters from various contractors to whom plans were sent, revealed that the monument could not be erected within the funds authorized by Congress, namely $1,000. It seemed to be the consensus of opinion that most of the contractors felt that the sum of between $2,300 and $2,800 would be required.

In view of the above and since funds must be obligated for this monument before June 30, an opinion of the Fine Arts Commission is requested as to whether it would be permissible to use the same design for the granite shaft and affix a small bronze marker to one face of the shaft carrying an inscription considerably reduced from the original.

(Signed) Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.

Mr. Thompson of the National Park Service was present to discuss the matter with the Commission. He said that he believed it possible to do the work for $1,000 if the inscription were reduced from 1,500 letters as proposed to about 300, and also by omitting polishing the stone. The Commission agreed to this and a new design will be made accordingly omitting all unnecessary details.

9. FORT PULASKI, GEORGIA, MARKER: Mr. Thompson submitted a design for a bronze marker that has been proposed for the parapet of Fort Pulaski. He said the design was not made by the National Park Service and that it seemed a waste of time to try to secure a good one from the association interested in this memorial. Mr. Clarke suggested that the National Park Service make a new design and that it be cast in so-called nickel bronze.

10. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS:

1. Plaza Restaurant: The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission a design submitted by Mr. E. W. Dreyfuss for an inscription

on the parapet of the proposed Plaza Restaurant. It was noted that the words, "Plaza Restaurant" were to be in bronze fully a foot high and extending over a space of 76 feet. The Secretary raised the point that this was exceeding the regulation of the Commission limiting advertising signs to 25 square feet in the Shipstead-Luce Act areas.

The Commission disapproved the scheme to use the raised bronze letters, stating that the name should be incised in the stone and if this is done it might be considered part of the decoration of the building. The letters might also be gilded if so desired; otherwise the Commission would expect the applicant to limit his sign to the usual 25 square feet. A report was sent to Mr. Dreyfuss accordingly. (Exhibit C)

b. The Secretary submitted a set of plans for a residence at 1772 Portal Drive near the District boundary on 16th Street. Mr. Lamb and Mr. Borie inspected the design and considered it satisfactory.

c. Apartment House near Piney Branch: Mr. E. Burton Corning, architect, of Washington, submitted a sketch for a series of small apartment houses adjacent to the Piney Branch Parkway between 16th and 17th Streets. Mr. Borie and Mr. Lamb inspected the design. It was noted that the apartment houses will be low and will not be elaborate in their construction. Copper flashing was recommended. Mr. Corning was informed of this suggested change in the design.

d. Apartment Building, 19th and F Streets. Breuninger Brothers, designers and builders of the apartment building at 19th and F Streets, submitted a gray colored brick, a sample of the type to be used for the building. Mr. Borie and Mr. Lamb inspected it and considered it satisfactory. The attention of the firm was called to suggestions made by the Commission, particularly by Mr. Borie who strongly recommended the use of metal sash and

plate glass. The Commission were informed that every effort would be made to carry out the suggestions. The Commission were also promised a revised design for the 19th Street entrance.

11. BAND SHELL: Under date of May 5, 1938, the following letter was received from the Bureau of the Budget requesting the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts concerning a proposed band shell to be used for concerts at the Water Gate this summer:

My dear Mr. Clarke:

There has been referred to this office an application for the allocation of W. P. A. funds to the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for the construction of the following-described project:

"Construct band shell on pile foundation in Potomac River, near Arlington Memorial Bridge, and perform work incidental and appurtenant thereto. This project will operate in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, on Federally owned property. Permission of the U. S. Engineers has been obtained. It is certified that the funds provided are sufficient for the completion of this project. In addition to projects specifically approved."

The application states further that this band shell would be located approximately twenty feet from the sea wall of the Water Gate at the Memorial Bridge, and that the cost would be $27,182, of which $2,182 would be sponsor's funds and $25,000 Federal funds.

The Acting Director would appreciate an expression of the views of the Commission of Fine Arts with respect to this proposal.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) F. J. Bailey,
Acting Administrative Assistant.

Mr. C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent of National Capital Parks, was present to discuss the matter. He presented a sketch indicating that it is proposed to build a band shell holding 80 musicians. The shell would be approximately 80 feet wide by 50 feet deep and 40 feet high. Mr. Finnan

suggested that about 24 piles be driven in each season and the shell placed thereon. At the close of the season he would arrange with the U. S. Engineer's office to have the piles removed.

The Commission considered the matter. The design for the band shell was approved. However, the Commission strongly objected to the placing of the shell on piles for there is no assurance that the piles would be removed at the close of the season and their non-removal probably would lead to an unsightly collection of debris at the foot of the Water Gate. The Commission therefore believed it would be far better to use a barge to support the shell as this could be stored at the end of summer. A report was sent to the Bureau of the Budget accordingly. (Exhibit D)

12. MARCONI MEMORIAL: The Secretary reported that Congress has enacted the legislation providing for the proposed Marconi Memorial and that the President approved the bill on April 13, 1938. (Exhibit E) In the matter of locating the memorial the Commission decided that this could be taken up at such time as the Marconi Memorial Foundation would inform the Commission concerning the design for the memorial.

13. PUBLIC BUILDINGS PROGRAM: The Secretary presented a copy of a report of the President's Committee for the new Public Buildings Program together with the following memorandum:

May 3, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS:

On April 29, 1938, President Roosevelt announced a new Public Buildings Program for the District of Columbia to cost $142,257,000. The projects selected have been assigned to two five-year periods. The President's special committee on public buildings worked out the scheme. The committee consists of the Secretary of the Interior as Chairman, Congressman Collins, Senator Elmer Thomas, Mr. Frederic A. Delano and Rear Admiral Peoples. Attached hereto is a list of the projects that have been selected for each of the five-year periods. (Exhibit X)

The first five-year program, consisting of 20 projects, will have a cost of $94,717,500; the second five-year plan provides for 22 projects costing $47,539,700.

It will be noted that in carrying out the program it is proposed to demolish the old Post Office Building on Pennsylvania Avenue. Senator Thomas has strongly protested against this. Also he is not in favor of spending as much as $26,000,000 for a new War Department Building. It has been suggested that the War Department be erected in the area near the intersection of New York and Virginia Avenues. It has been proposed to place the new Navy Building west of the old Naval Hospital near the waterfront. Congress has authorized the relocation of the Naval Hospital and an expenditure of $4,850,000 for constructing the buildings and buying land. The Secretary of the Navy has not determined as yet where the new Naval Hospital shall be located. I have heard that consideration is being given to a location in the vicinity of Fort Dupont on the east bank of the Anacostia. The Great Plaza development (No. 27) should be in the first five-year program.

The Commission discussed the proposed program informally. It was agreed that it would be desirable to have the Great Plaza in the Triangle developed as soon as possible since it would remove an ugly open-air garage and enable the Oscar Straus Memorial Association to erect their memorial in the Plaza. Attention was called to the item proposed to add the extensions to the National Museum Building. The secretary was asked to request Mr. Wyeth for a set of the plans for discussion at the next meeting of the Commission.

Mr. Borie expressed particular interest in the Smithsonian Gallery of Art, for which legislation was adopted by Congress a few days ago and a copy of the bill as contained in the Congress Record of May 5, 1938, was read.

The Commission considered it a splendid bill. In the matter of location the Commission felt it would be very appropriate to place the building on the south side of the Mall directly opposite the National Gallery of Art where it could have a location comprising three squares exactly like that of the National Gallery of Art on the north side of the Mall; thus the two galleries would be symmetrical in their relation to the Capitol.

14. IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The Secretary called attention to legislation enacted by Congress in the District of Columbia Appropriation Act for 1939, providing for the Thomas Circle underpass, the Massachusetts Avenue underpass at the Rock Creek Parkway and a grade separation at K Streets. The Commission felt that these projects are of such importance to the National Capital that the plans ought to be very carefully considered; therefore, the Commission decided to ask the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia for a set of the plans. (Exhibit F)

15. PAINTINGS FOR THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of May 5, 1938, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Section of Painting and Sculpture, submitting sketches for paintings by Michael Newell in the main corridor, 7th floor of the new Interior Department Building:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

> Attached herewith are two mural designs by Mr. Michael Newell for the decoration of the north end of the main corridor, seventh floor, New Department of the Interior Building submitted to the Commission for its comment and advice.
>
> Cordially yours,
> (Signed) Edward B. Rowan,
> Superintendent,
> Section of Painting & Sculpture.

The subject matter of the sketches dealt with territorial and insular possessions as Alaska and the Virgin Islands. The sketches were inspected by Mr. Savage and upon his recommendation the Commission approved them. (Exhibit G)

16. PAINTING FOR THE NEW INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of May 3, 1938, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, submitting a three-inch scale color sketch by Henry Varnum Poor for a mural decoration to be placed on the north end wall, fourth floor, of the new Interior Department Building:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

The Section of Painting and Sculpture is submitting herewith for the comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts a three inch scale color sketch of a mural decoration for the north end wall, fourth floor lobby of the Department of the Interior Building by Mr. Henry Varnum Poor.

Mr. Poor proposes to carry the work out in fresco and has submitted for the information of those concerned the attached outline explaining his proposal and further method of treatment. The Commission may be interested to know that this design was reviewed by the Secretary of the Interior and found satisfactory. Attached is a blue print of the space to be decorated.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting & Sculpture.

The sketch was given special attention by Mr. Savage, who was well pleased with it. The criticism was made that the Everglade section might have more characteristic suggestion of cypress knees, roots, etc. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Savage the Commission approved the sketch, subject to this criticism. (Exhibit E)

17. MURAL PAINTING FOR THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN POSTAL STATION: Under date of May 3, 1938, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, submitting designs for mural decorations to be placed in two spaces in the east end of the Benjamin Franklin Postal Station:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

The Section of Painting and Sculpture is submitting herewith for the comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts two two inch scale color sketches representing the designs by Mr. Alexander Brook of New York City for the mural decoration of two spaces in the east end of the Benjamin Franklin Postal Station. Blue prints of the spaces are attached herewith.

Thanking you, I am

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting & Sculpture.

The Commission concurred in the criticisms by Mr. Savage, as follows:

> The compositions themselves are acceptable, though fragmental in pattern and line. A serious question is the scale--the large figures measure 8-8½ feet in full size and will be emphatically out of scale with the lobby. Both lobby and paintings will suffer from such lack of relationship. The foreshortened arm on the figure in "Letter from Home" study is unmural. It looks deformed and defies two dimensional limitations of painting.

A report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit I)

18. SCULPTURE GROUP FOR NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK: Under date of April 22, 1938, the following letter was received from Mr. Cecil H. Jones, Chief, Treasury Art Relief Project, submitting photographs of a sculptural group of two tumbling bears proposed for the National Zoological Park:

> My dear Mr. Clarke:
>
> I am forwarding herewith to the Commission of Fine Arts, for its comment and advice, photographs of a sculpture group of two tumbling bears proposed for allocation to the Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.
>
> This work has been approved by the Director of the Zoo, Dr. William Mann, as well as by the Treasury Department Art Projects.
>
> The bears stand approximately three feet high.
>
> This sculpture group was executed by Mr. Heinz Warneke, a sculptor working under the Treasury Department Art Projects. The medium is artificial granite, which has been tested and approved by the Bureau of Standards in accordance with requirements of Federal Specification SS-S-721 for Cast Stone.
>
> Thanking you for a report on this item, I am
>
> Very truly yours,
> (Signed) Cecil H. Jones,
> Chief, Treasury Relief Art Project.

The photographs were inspected by Mr. Manship and upon his recommendation the sculptural group was approved. A report was sent to Mr. Jones accordingly. (Exhibit J)

19. NAVAL RESERVE MEDAL: Under date of April 27, 1938, the following letter was received from Mr. Cecil H. Jones, submitting photographs of the plaster model of the Naval Reserve Medal:

My dear Mr. Clarke:

I am forwarding herewith to the Commission of Fine Arts, for its comment and advice, photographs of the plaster model of the Naval Reserve Medal which has been executed for the Navy Department.

These designs, for the obverse and reverse sides of the medal, have been approved by a committee of three officials of the Bureau of Navigation, Captain J. A. Schofield, Captain Gygax and Lieutenant Commander Kane, as well as by the Treasury Department Art Projects.

The dimensions of the medal are $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, which is the regulation size for a Navy medal.

The designs have been executed by Mr. Erwin Springweiler, a sculptor working under the Treasury Department Art Projects.

Thanking you for a report on this medal, I am

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Cecil H. Jones,
Chief, Treasury Relief Art Project.

The photographs were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Manship, who recommended that t e inscription be revised to conform to the sketch which he had drawn on the back of the photograph, in which he avoided the use of the initials, U. S., and placed the inscription United States Naval Reserve around the rim. The words, "Faithful Service" and a star would be placed approximately in the center on the same side of the medal. With respect to the eagle Mr. Manship considered it well designed but suggested that the feathers be somewhat detailed. Subject to these changes the Commission approved the model. (Exhibit K)

20. TELEGRAM OF CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. CRET: Mr. Clarke reported that on being informed that Dr. Cret would receive the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects at the convention of the American Institute of

Architects in New Orleans last month he sent the following telegram to Dr. Cret:

April 20, 1938.

It is my privilege on behalf of the National Commission of Fine Arts to extend most sincere congratulations for the honor to be conferred upon you by the Institute. You richly deserve the Gold Medal of the Institute for your distinguished contributions to American architecture.

Dr. Cret sent a letter in reply in which he expressed his appreciation of the privilege he has had in years past of cooperating with the Commission of Fine Arts. (Exhibit L)

21. PAINTINGS IN POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING: The Commission made a tour of inspection through the Post Office Department Building to see the mural paintings which have been completed. The paintings portray the history of the Post Office Department. The Commission felt that the artists had done very good work in carrying out the sketches that had been submitted from time to time to the Commission. Mr. Bruce was complimented on the work he has done for artists in this country and a letter was addressed to him expressing this commendation of the Commission. (Exhibit M; see also M-1)

The Commission adjourned at 5:00 p. m.

C O P Y

May 25, 1938.

Dear Congressman:

Again referring to your letter of March 21st relative to the possible purchase by the Government of the Hearst collection, I am pleased to transmit the following report made by Messrs. Manship and Savage, sculptor and painter members of the Commission:

> This great collection--containing many thousands of items--is not easily visible, and is, to a great extent, stored away in warehouses. While part of it is in New York, there are a great number of pieces in California and elsewhere.
>
> The art objects range from tapestries to furniture, pictures and sculpture to stained glass, Mayan and Central American art to Greek vases and Renaissance armor. Besides, there is a great collection of Americana in the form of literary documents.
>
> There are three hundred and fifty tapestries, including sixty Gothic ones, which seem to be of supreme importance, and, undoubtedly, there are pieces which would add lustre to any great collection.
>
> The collection of over one hundred suits of armor, we understand, is of great importance and one of the finest privately owned.
>
> We understand that, among the paintings, there are about thirty of outstanding quality, and six or eight notable sculptural works.
>
> Mr. Hearst has gathered together sixty panelled rooms, of which we understand about twenty-five are of special importance. In the field of Greek vases, his collection has the reputation of being especially rich, as is also the case with examples of Mayan and other American Indian sculptural objects.
>
> We believe that, by all means, every effort should be made to secure outstanding examples of this great private collection for the National Galleries.

This report was approved by the Commission at their meeting on May 7. The Commission wishes to suggest that before any part of the collection is acquired by the Government the articles proposed for

EXHIBIT A

purchase should be carefully appraised. Likewise if the collection is given to the Government, it should be with the understanding that certain parts of it may be disposed of as seem advisable.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Alfred N. Phillips, Jr.,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

May 7, 1938.

My dear Mr. Sabath:

The Commission of Fine Arts is sympathetic to all proposals the objects of which are the beautification of our National Capital. The worthy motives expressed in the Joint Resolution 623 are appreciated, but, in its critical advisory capacity, the Commission is called upon to point out various reasons for which the admirable sentiments voiced in the project to perpetuate the Columbian Fountain in the City of Washington could not be fulfilled, and would not, in the best judgment of the Commission, be advisable.

Frederick MacMonnies was one of the outstanding sculptors of his generation, and the Columbian Fountain designed by him received wide popular acclaim. The fountain was eminently appropriate in its form and spirit to the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, but to attempt to reproduce it in permanent form would, in the Commission's judgment, be impracticable and inadvisable.

It was in harmony with the spirit of, and dependent upon, a setting which has been lost, except in memory. The Commission does not believe that, were the sculptor living, he would desire to see it reproduced exactly as it was in the Exposition of 1893, and none but himself could do justice to the execution in permanent materials of such an important work, nor make the inevitable alterations appropriate to a new environment. Lacking the master hand of the creator of the Columbian Fountain, and bearing in mind the other circumstances, the Commission of Fine Arts considers unwise any attempt to reconstruct this fountain.

However, returning to the proposition of our opening paragraph, I wish to add that the Commission would be happy to consider a work embodying the spirit which was expressed in the Columbian Fountain, done by a sculptor of our times and in a spirit sympathetic to the environment of Washington.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Adolph J. Sabath,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

COPY

May 7, 1938.

Dear Mr. Keller:

I am inclosing a copy of a report which the Commission of Fine Arts has sent to Representative Sabath in regard to the Columbian Fountain.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Kent E. Keller,
Chairman, Committee on the Library,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B-1

C O P Y

May 14, 1938.

Mr. Edmund W. Dreyfuss,
1528 K Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Dreyfuss:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 7, 1938, considered your design for the proposed Plaza Restaurant. The Commission disapprove the use of the raised bronze letters "Plaza Restaurant" in the size shown on the plan, but would have no objection to your providing for incised letters cut into the stone with the same size and spacing shown for the raised letters. These incised letters may be gilded if necessary.

Unless this is done, the Commission will have to restrict you to the usual 25 square feet specified for advertising signs in the Shipstead-Luce areas.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

May 12, 1938.

My dear Mr. Bailey:

Your letter of May 3, concerning the erection of a band shell near the water gate at the Arlington Memorial Bridge, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting May 7th. The Commission approve the project with the understanding that the band shell will be placed on a barge rather than on piles.

The Commission conferred with Mr. C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent of National Capital Parks, concerning the matter. He said that the pile foundation would be a temporary construction each concert season. The Commission felt, however, that although it is intended to remove the staging and piles each summer after the concert season, nevertheless such assurance is most indefinite; it would, of course, be unfortunate to have this temporary structure in place longer than necessary to serve the purpose intended. The Commission, therefore, believe it would be far better to use a barge upon which the shell could be mounted and stored at the close of the concert season.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. F. J. Bailey,
Acting Administrative Assistant,
Bureau of the Budget,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

[PUBLIC RESOLUTION—NO. 86—75TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 147—3D SESSION]

[H. J. Res. 499]

JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the erection of a memorial to the late Guglielmo Marconi.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to grant permission to The Marconi Memorial Foundation, Inc., for the erection on public grounds of the United States in the District of Columbia, other than those of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the White House, of a memorial of simple and artistic form to the late Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of an apparatus for wireless telegraphy, by the American people: *Provided*, That the site chosen and the design of the memorial shall have the approval of the National Commission of Fine Arts and that the United States shall be put to no expense in or by the erection of the said memorial: *Provided further*, That unless funds, which in the estimation of the Secretary of the Interior are sufficient to insure the completion of the memorial, are certified available, and the erection of this memorial begun within five years from and after the passage of this legislation, the authorization hereby granted is revoked.

Approved, April 13, 1938.

EXHIBIT 2

COPY

May 9, 1938.

My dear Mr. Hazen:

The Commission of Fine Arts have heard of the legislation recently enacted by Congress to provide for the construction of an underpass at Thomas Circle on the axis of Massachusetts Avenue; the construction of an additional culvert under Massachusetts Avenue in the line of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway; and the construction of a grade separation structure at K Street, N. W. and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. The Commission consider these very important plans for the National Capital and are deeply interested in them.

Would you please favor the Commission with the submission of preliminary sketches for these projects as soon as they are completed? Arrangements are being made for a meeting of the Commission about the middle of June, at which time the sketches could be considered.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Melvin C. Hazen,
President,
Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

C O P Y

May 9, 1938.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 7, 1938, considered the sketches, which you submitted with your letter of May 5, for two mural paintings by Mr. Michael Newell to go in the main corridor, seventh floor of the new Interior Department Building.

The sketches were inspected by Mr. Savage and upon his recommendation the Commission approved them.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent of the Section
of Painting and Sculpture,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

C O P Y

May 9, 1938.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 7, 1938, considered the three-inch scale color sketch for the mural decoration for the north end wall, fourth floor lobby of the Department of the Interior Building by Henry Varnum Poor. The sketch was given especial attention by Mr. Savage, who was well pleased with it, as were the other Commission members. Upon his recommendation the Commission approved it.

The criticism was made that the everglade section might have more characteristic suggestion of cypress knees, roots, etc.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

COPY

May 9, 1938.

My dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 7, 1938, considered the sketches which you submitted with your letter of May 3, of designs by Mr. Alexander Brook of New York City for the mural decorations to be placed in two spaces at the east end of the Benjamin Franklin Postal Station.

The sketches were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Eugene Savage, painter member of the Commission. Mr. Savage reports as follows:

The compositions themselves are acceptable, though fragmental in pattern and line. A serious question is the scale--the large figures measure 8-3½ feet in full size and will be emphatically out of scale with the lobby. Both lobby and paintings will suffer from such lack of relationship. The foreshortened arm on the figure in "Letter from Home" study is unmural. It looks deformed and defies two dimensional limitations of painting.

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the sketches subject to these criticisms.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent of Section of
Painting and Sculpture,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

May 9, 1938.

My dear Mr. Jones:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 7, 1938, approved the sculpture group of two tumbling bears by Heinz Warneke, photographs of which you submitted with your letter of April 22.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Cecil M. Jones,
Chief,
Treasury Relief Art Project,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

May 11, 1938.

My dear Mr. Jones:

The photographs of the plaster model of the Naval Reserve Medal, which you submitted with your letter of April 27, received the consideration of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 7th. The photographs were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Paul Manship, sculptor member of the Commission.

Mr. Manship suggests that the sculptor, Mr. Erwin Springweiler, revise the inscription to conform to the sketch indicated on the back of the photograph. This will avoid using the initials U. S.; and will provide for placing the inscription, United States Naval Reserve, around the rim. The words "Faithful Service" and a star would be in the center of that side of the medal.

Concerning the eagle, Mr. Manship thinks it is well designed, but he would suggest that the feathers be somewhat detailed.

With the incorporation of these changes in the model, the Commission will approve it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Cecil H. Jones, Chief,
Treasury Relief Art Project,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT K

ARCHITECTS BUILDING

April 27th 1938.

Dear Mr Charles.

I am particularly appreciative of your telegram and wish to thank you and the members of the National commission of Fine arts for their congratulations.

It has been my good fortune to receive the advice and the assistance of the commission at various times in the last twenty years. I owe a good deal to them and do not wish for any better reward than the assurance that they do not regret their confidence.

Please convey to them my heartiest thanks and my acknowledgment of what they contributed to the projects I have the honor and pleasure to submit to their judgement.

Very sincerely yours

Jas. F. Hoge

EXHIBIT L

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman
The National commission of Fine arts.

C O P Y

May 10, 1938.

Mr. Edward Bruce,
Chief, Division of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Edward Bruce:

Saturday afternoon, the members of the Commission went through the Post Office Building to see the murals that have been placed in the main elevator lobbies and the sculpture in the Postmaster General's reception rooms. All of the members were loud in their praises of this work which was accomplished under your able supervision by known and unknown artists.

Personally, I was very much pleased and most pleasantly surprised. I had seen the cartoons but never realized that the final paintings would turn out as successfully as they have. More power to you. You have done and are doing a great piece of work in bringing to the front, men and women who possess great talent in the Arts, who had it not been for you, may never have been known.

It was pleasant to have seen you Friday evening at your home and I hope that when the Commission meets in Washington in the future, we may be able to accept of your hospitality again.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

EXHIBIT M

C O P Y

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Procurement Division
Washington

May 11, 1938.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Thank you very much for your very kind and complimentary letter of May 10. Needless to say it is enormously appreciated by all of us.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) Edward Bruce,

Chief, Section of Painting & Sculpture

EXHIBIT M-1

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE - PUBLIC BUILDING PROGRAM
FIRST FIVE YEAR PROGRAM
Exhibit "A"

		Estimated total cost
1.	Additional floor above wings #7 and #8 - Navy Building	$ 840,000
2.	White House, East Executive Ave., and State Building connecting projects.	500,000
3.	War Department--total land acquisition and first (East) building.	10,815,000
4.	Social Security Board and Railroad Retirement Board--land and building	11,525,000
5.	Freedman's Hospital--building for tuberculosis unit.	600,000
6.	Land acquisition for widening Independence Avenue and later construction of Smithsonian buildings and sites for projects numbers 8, 16, 24, 29, 30 and 31.	7,500,000
7.	West Central Heating Plant and Distributing System.	4,500,000
8.	Navy Department--new administration building. Note (1)	16,800,000
9.	Water main.	1,000,000
10.	War Department--2nd (West) unit to complete administration buildings.	15,185,000
11.	First wing of National Museum.	4,350,000
12.	St. Elizabeth's Hospital--land, various buildings and improvements.	2,100,000
13.	General Accounting or Auditing Office--administration building and land.	7,000,000
14.	National Training School for Boys--new facilities and remodeling.	515,500
15.	Columbia Hospital for women--new building for nurses home.	300,000
16.	Treasury Annex #1--extension of present building. Note (1)	4,000,000
17.	Public Health extension to rear of present building.	900,000

Note (1) Cost of land included in item #6.
Note (2) Proposed building for History Collection amounting to approximately $6,000,000 not included.
Note (3) A portion of the proposed building program amounting to approximately $5,400,000, not included.

EXHIBIT X

9. Coast Guard Academy—remodeling and new building projects. Note (3)	[illegible]
9. Coast Guard—land and new building.	[illegible]
0. Maritime Commission—land and new building.	[illegible]
TOTAL, Third Five Year Program.	[illegible]

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE - PUBLIC BUILDING PROGRAM
SECOND FIVE YEAR PROGRAM
Exhibit "B"

		Estimated Total Cost
21.	Land and building for files and records of General Accounting Office and War Department.	$ 8,000,000
22.	Film storage and preservation--land and special buildings.	500,000
23.	National Arboretum--first portion of development program.	500,000
24.	Partial sports field development at East Capitol Street, supplemental to W. P. A. project. Note (1)	500,000
25.	Agriculture greenhouses to replace facilities in the Mall.	300,000
26.	Zoological Park--new buildings for various exhibits.	840,000
27.	Great Plaza Development.	500,000
28.	Treasury Garage.	238,000
29.	Procurement Garage. Note (1)	950,000
30.	Headquarters Company--Depot Quartermaster and Garage, new building. Note (1)	1,350,000
31.	Agriculture--extension to present building on block #326. Note (1)	2,300,000
32.	Second wing of National Museum.	4,250,000
33.	Smithsonian Institution--new building for Industrial Collection. Note(1) Note (2)	6,000,000
34.	St. Elizabeth's Hospital--new buildings to complete program.	2,250,000
35.	Howard University--new buildings to extend facilities. Note (3)	2,160,000
36.	Zoological Park--improvements to grounds; aquarium.	300,000
37.	National Arboretum--completion of program, roads and buildings.	1,500,000
38.	National Training School for Boys--various buildings and facilities.	407,000
39.	Completion of Stadium and buildings at East Capitol Street; sports field development.	5,000,000
40.	Internal Revenue extension and demolition of old Post Office Building	5,250,000
41.	Circular Plaza Development.	150,000
42.	Purchase District Building.	5,700,000
	TOTAL Second Five Year Program	$ 47,525,000
	TOTAL First Five Year Program	94,717,500
	TOTAL Ten Year Program	142,242,500